

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 KABUL 6145

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SUBJ: WAHEED ABDULLAH/LEWIS SIMONS INTERVIEW

REF: KABUL 6136

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE FULL TEXT, AS PUBLISHED IN THE KABUL TIMES OF 25 SEPTEMBER, OF THE INTERVIEW GIVEN ON 19 SEPTEMBER BY DEP FON MIN WAHEED ABDULLAH TO WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT LEWIS SIMONS.

2. QUOTE.

SIMONS: THE PRESIDENT OF ALGERIA BOUMEDIENNE, SPEAKING IN LAHORE AT THE ISLAMIC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS CONFERENCE, STATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WHEREBY THE CAPITAL OF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES IS PUT INTO USE IN POOR COUNTRIES. HAS THE ASSISTANCE ACQUIRED BY AFGHANISTAN FROM SOME MOSLEM AND OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES BEEN GIVEN ON THIS BASIS?

ABDULLAH: NO. THESE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO AFGHANISTAN ON THE BASIS OF FRIENDLY TALKS AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AFGHAN-
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ISTAN AND THE DONOR COUNTRIES.

SIMONS: HOW CAN ONE BE CERTAIN THAT THIS IS NOT A PART OF THE GENERAL POLICY OF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES?

ABDULLAH: IT MAY BE. YOU MAY KNOW THAT AN ISLAMIC BANK WILL ALSO BE FORMED TO HELP NEEDY MOSLEM COUNTRIES, AND THE INITIATIVE IS ALREADY TAKEN. BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BANK COMMENCES ITS OPERATIONS.

SIMONS: PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF YOUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

ABDULLAH: I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN'S ONLY POLITICAL DIFFERENCE WITH PAKISTAN. WHAT AFGHANISTAN WISHES IS THAT PAKISTAN OFFICIALLY RECOGNISES THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE DESTINY THEMSELVES. AFGHANISTAN HAS TRIED, PRIOR TO AND AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PAKISTAN, THAT THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION BE GRANTED TO THESE PEOPLE. UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS MADE BY AFGHANISTAN THUS FAR, PAKISTAN HAS REFUSED TO DO SO. THE PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE, AND THEIR LAND, WAS NEVER A PART OF PAKISTAN. THESE AND THEIR LAND WERE OCCUPIED BY THE PRESSURE OF COLONIALISM. WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGED IN THE SUBCONTINENT ONLY A MAKE-BELIEVE REFERENDUM TOOK PLACE THERE, AND THAT UNDER THE SAME PRESSURES AND INTRIGUES, AND WAS BOYCOTTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. AFGHANISTAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN FIRMLY CONVINCED, AND SHE IS CONVINCED, THAT THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION (SHOULD) BE GRANTED TO THESE PEOPLE. (THE) NATIONAL STRUGGLE AGAINST PAKISTANI DESPOTISM IN BALUCHISTAN CONTINUES. POLITICAL UNREST IN PASHTUNISTAN HAS ALSO BEGUN. THE EXPECTATION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN FROM PAKISTAN IS THIS: BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, THEY SHOULD TALK TO PASHTUN AND BALUCH LEADERS, WHO ARE UNJUSTLY AND UNDEMONCRATICALLY SUBJECTED TO PRESSURE AND THROWN IN PRISON.

SIMONS: IS NOT THIS EXPECTATION OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN?

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ABDULLAH: AS I SAID, THESE PEOPLE, MEANING THE PASHTUNS AND THE BALUCHIS, HAVE BEEN SUBJUGATED AS A RESULT OF OMINOUS ACTIVITIES OF COLONIALISM BY FORCE, AND HAVE NEVER BEEN A PART OF BRITISH INDIA OR PAKISTAN BUT HAD A SPECIAL POSITION. THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TOWARD THE FUTURE DESTINY OF THEIR MILLIONS OF PASHTUN AND BALUCH BROTHERS.

SIMONS: AS FAR AS I REMEMBER, BEFORE THE REVOLUTION THE BALUCH ISSUE WAS NOT MENTIONED, AND MR. MOHAMMAD DAOUD MADE NOTE OF IT IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE.

ABDULLAH: ON THE CONTRARY, THE BALUCH STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE HAS A LONG HISTORY WHICH GOES BACK YEARS, AND GAINED MOMENTUM ESPECIALLY AFTER THE CREATION OF PAKISTAN. BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION, THE ARMED STRUGGLE WHICH BEGAN FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN, WHEN PAKISTAN DISCARDED UNLAWFULLY THE GOVERNMENTS FORMED BY THE MAJORITY IN BALUCHISTAN AND PASHTUNISTAN AND THE BALUCH LEADERS WERE IMPRISONED. IN VIEW OF PAKISTANI DESPOTISM, ESPECIALLY IN BALUCHISTAN, THE BALUCH NAME IS MENTIONED.

SIMONS: WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CHANGE?

ABDULLAH: THERE IS NO SPECIAL OBJECTIVE IN IT. (IT IS) ONLY FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND INTRODUCTION, AS BOTH ARE OUR BROTHERS AND WE SUPPORT THEIR RIGHT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

SIMONS: DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS YOUR RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN HAVE CONSIDERABLY DETERIORATED. IN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE HOW CAN WE FIND A WAY FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE?

ABDULLAH: RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN BEGAN TO WORSEN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, EVEN BEFORE THE REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN, INDULGED IN TRAMPLING THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE AND, AS I SAID BEFORE, DISLODGED THE MAJORITY GOVERNMENTS IN PASHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN AND STARTED ARMED OPERATIONS AGAINST THE PATRIOTS. AS A RESULT OF THESE ACTIONS OF PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT AS REGARDS THE PRESSURE OVER (THE) PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE. AND SINCE WE UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE IN VIEW THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS REGION WE DO NOT WISH TO REMAIN (AN) ONLOOKER TO THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS OF PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLE, DISTURBING THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION.

SIMONS: YOU HAVE COMPARED THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH THE SITUATION WHICH PREVAILED IN BANGLADESH IN 1971. AT THAT TIME TEN MILLION REFUGEES ENTERED INDIA FROM EAST PAKISTAN. INDIA CONSIDERED THIS AS A THREAT TO ITSELF, AND FOUGHT PAKISTAN FOR RETURNING THE REFUGEES.

ABDULLAH: IF PAKISTAN CONTINUES INDISCRIMINATE BOMBING OF HAMLETS AND VILLAGES IN BALUCHISTAN WHEN THE PERIOD OF THE ULTIMATUM ENDS THE SAME THING THAT OCCURRED IN BANGLADESH

MAY BE SPECULATED.

SIMONS: IN THAT CASE WILL YOU CONFRONT PAKISTAN?

ABDULLAH: IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANSWER YOU AT THIS JUNCTURE. BUT I SAY THIS MUCH, THAT IF THAT SITUATION COMES ABOUT IT WILL NOT ONLY BE A BIG PROBLEM FOR AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN BUT IT WILL ALSO CREATE A DANGER FOR PEACE IN THIS REGION OF THE WORLD. FOR THIS (REASON), AND IN VIEW OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN HAS ASKED THE HEADS OF ALL ISLAMIC NATIONS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THAT ORGANIZATION, TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF MR. BHUTTO, THE PRIME

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MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, IN A FRIENDLY MANNER (ABOUT) THE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A SITUATION BEFORE IT HAPPENS.
SIMONS: MR. TAHAMI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, AFTER HIS TALKS WITH MR. BHUTTO AND THE LEADERS OF AFGHANISTAN, WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC AND SAID THE SITUATION WAS CRITICAL.
ABDULLAH: MR. TAHAMI HAS UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION WELL, AND KNOWS US WELL. (HE KNOWS) WE FAVOUR PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND

STABILITY, AND TALKS, AND (THAT WE) ARE OF THE OPINION THAT ISSUES CANNOT BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH BULLYING. WE ASK BHUTTO TO HAVE THE COURAGE OF A REAL POLITICAL LEADER, (TO) BEGIN TALKS WITH LEADERS OF THE PASHTUNS, BALUCHIS AND AFGHANISTAN, AND NOT TO INDULGE IN ADVENTURISM.

SIMONS: I HAVE COME FROM PAKISTAN. I HAD A ONE AND A HALF HOUR INTERVIEW WITH BHUTTO THERE. MOSTLY THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS THIS. AFTER VISITING THERE AND HERE I HAVE THE IDEA THAT TALKS ARE IMPOSSIBLE, BECAUSE POSITIONS ARE TOO FAR FROM EACH OTHER, AND UNCHANGED.

ABDULLAH: THIS DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON MR. BHUTTO. HE CANNOT DENY ONE IRREFUTABLE REALITY. I MUST SAY EXPLICITLY (THAT) THE KEY TO THE ISSUE IS IN ISLAMABAD, NOT IN KABUL.

SIMONS: WHAT ARE YOUR CONDITIONS FOR TALKS?

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ABDULLAH: OUR CONDITION IS THAT TALKS SHOULD BE UNCONDITIONAL.

WE ARE READY TO TALK WITH PAKISTAN OVER OUR ONLY DISPUTE.

SIMONS: MR. BHUTTO SAYS THIS IS AN INTERNAL ISSUE OF PAKISTAN.

ABDULLAH: PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES HAVE ALWAYS SAID THIS. WE HAVE NEVER

CONSIDERED IT AN INTERNAL ISSUE OF PAKISTAN'S.

SIMONS: IN THE EVENT MR. BHUTTO TRANSLATE HIS ULTIMATUM INTO ACTION AND STARTS BOMBARDMENT WHAT WILL YOU DO?

ABDULLAH: WE CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN THE FACE OF SUCH ACTIONS.

SIMONS: WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF FORCES OF AFGHANISTAN AND

PAKISTAN ON THE BORDERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES I INTERPRET THIS AS WAR?

ABDULLAH: (A) CONCENTRATION OF FORCES BY AFGHANISTAN HAS IN NO WAY AND NEVER TAKEN PLACE. WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO INVITE YOU AND OFFER YOU THE REQUIRED FACILITIES TO VISIT THE CONCERNED AREA AS A FREE JOURNALIST. HOW MUCH BETTER IF YOU CARRY OUT THE SAME OBSERVATIONS ON THE OUTSIDE,

THE SO-CALLED BORDER AND COMPARE AS TO WHICH

COUNTRY HAS TAKEN SPECIAL MILITARY MEASURES.

SIMONS: I KNOW THAT PAKISTAN HAS CONCENTRATED ITS FORCES, AND SHE DOES NOT DENY THIS.

ABDULLAH: IT IS GOOD THAT WITH YOUR CERTIFICATION IT BECOMES KNOWN TO THE WORLD. WHILE SOME TIME AGO BHUTTO ACCUSED AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA OF CONCENTRATION OF FORCES HE WAS HIMSELF CONCENTRATING HIS FORCES. AND, AS YOU SAY, HE DOES NOT DENY IT.

SIMONS: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW IF I WRITE IN MY NEWSPAPER WITH BOLD LETTERS THAT IN THE EVENT OF ACTING ON THE ULTIMATUM IN BALUCHISTAN YOU WILL CONFRONT PAKISTAN?

ABDULLAH: WE WILL NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT. WHAT MERITS CONSIDERATION IS THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CONFRONTATION TAKING PLACE ITS CONSEQUENCES WILL BE GRAVER FOR OUR REGION THAN CAN BE SURMISED.

SIMONS: HOW DO YOU COMPARE YOUR MILITARY POWER WITH THAT OF PAKISTAN?

ABDULLAH: UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION.

SIMONS: IN CASE OF A CONFRONTATION (WITH PAKISTAN) WILL INDIA HELP?
ABDULLAH: I REPEAT THAT IN CASE OF AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT BETWEEN
AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN ITS AREA WILL NOT REMAIN CONFINED.
SIMONS: WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THE SURRENDERING OF SOME BALUCHIS?
ABDULLAH: THERE IS NO TRUTH IN (STORIES) OF SURRENDERING OF
BALUCHIS, BECAUSE THEY FIGHT FOR A PRINCIPLE.
SIMONS: IN CASE OF CONFRONTATION WITH PAKISTAN HOW AND FROM WHERE
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CAN YOU GET AID?
ABDULLAH: SELF DEFENCE IS THE DUTY OF EVERY NATION. IN SUCH
CIRCUMSTANCES IT SHOULD NOT BE THOUGHT THAT THE INCIDENTS WILL
REMAIN LIMITED.
SIMONS: MR. BHUTTO HAS REPEATEDLY NOTED HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH THE
SHAH OF IRAN, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE INDIAN THREAT. WHAT IS
YOUR VIEW?
ABDULLAH: THE SHAHINSHAH OF IRAN HAS A BROAD VIEW OF ISSUES IN
THE REGION AND THE WORLD, AND HIS ASSESSMENT IN NO WAY CORRESPONDS
TO MR. BHUTTO'S ASSESSMENT.
SIMONS: HOW IS YOUR RELATION WITH CHINA?
ABDULLAH: OUR RELATIONS ARE NORMAL AND FRIENDLY.
SIMONS: DO YOU HAVE TRADE WITH CHINA?
ABDULLAH: YES; ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO WE SIGNED A TRADE AGREEMENT.
SIMONS: DO YOU HAVE MILITARY DEALS?
ABDULLAH: NO, WE DON'T.
SIMONS: DO YOU GET ALL THE ARMS FROM THE SOVIET UNION?
ABDULLAH: YES.
SIMONS: OUTSIDE THE RELATIONS OF PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, WHAT
IS YOUR VIEW AS REGARDS OTHER COUNTRIES?
ABDULLAH: WE ARE HIGHLY SATISFIED AND HAPPY WITH OUR AMICABLE
RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION

EXCEPTING PAKISTAN. WE ALSO HAVE GOOD RELATION WITH THE UNITED
STATES. I SHALL MEET MR. KISSINGER AFTER SOME TIME, EITHER IN
NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON.
SIMONS: WILL YOU HAVE TALKS WITH MR. KISSINGER ON SOME SPECIAL
SUBJECT?
ABDULLAH: OF COURSE, APART FROM TALKS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OF THAT COUNTRY TO AFGHANISTAN WHICH CONTINUES
SATISFACTORILY, OUR TALKS WILL MOSTLY CENTRE ON THE UNEASY SITUATION
IN THE REGION.
SIMONS:
WILL YOU ASK MR. KISSINGER TO BEAR SOME SORT OF PRESSURE
OVER MR. BHUTTO?
ABDULLAH: AS A GREAT COUNTRY, AND ONE INTERESTED IN LASTING PEACE
IN THIS REGION AND THE WORLD, OF COURSE THIS EXPECTATION EXISTS.
SIMONS: IF THE UNITED STATES SUPPLIES WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN WHAT
WILL BE YOUR REACTION?
ABDULLAH: IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WITH THE
WISDOM WHICH SHE HAS, WILL NOT TAKE SUCH A STEP FOR THE CAUSE OF

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PRESERVATION OF PEACE OF THE REGION.

SIMONS: SOME AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED THAT PAKISTAN HAS FALLEN
BEHIND IN THE ARMS RACE OF THE REGION, AND PAKISTAN IS TOTALLY HELPLESS

AGAINST INDIA'S WEAPONS. WITH THE SPEED THAT AFGHANISTAN IS ARMING
ITSELF SHE WILL ALSO OVERTAKE PAKISTAN IN SOME TIME.

ABDULLAH: AT THE VERY MOMENT PAKISTAN RECEIVES ARMS FROM OTHER
SOURCES, AND 75 PERCENT OF THE BUDGET OF THAT COUNTRY IS EXPENDED
ON ARMAMENT, IN THE EVENT THE UNITED STATES ALSO SUPPLIES IT
WITH ARMS THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE REGION WILL BE DISTURBED.
HENCE, IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS A GREAT COUNTRY AND
ONE INTERESTED IN PEACE, WILL NOT DO THIS.

SIMONS: ARE THERE OTHER SUBJECTS THAT YOU WISH US TO PUBLISH?

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ABDULLAH: MY EXPECTATION FROM THE WASHINGTON POST IS THAT WE
HAVE SAID IS REPRODUCED AS IT WAS SAID. ANOTHER POINT THAT I WISH
TO MENTION IS THAT ADVENTURISM, FOR WHOEVER IT MAY BE, IS AN

INDULGENCE. THE TWO INDO-PAKISTANI CONFRONTATIONS PRACTICALLY PROVED THIS. THE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION NEED ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND RAISING OF STANDARDS OF LIVING OF THEIR PEOPLE AND OUGHT TO TRY TO AVOID WHAT RESULTS IN UNTOLD WASTE OF RESOURCES.

SIMONS: I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH YOUR VIEW. DO YOU THINK THAT BHUTTO FAVOURS WAR?

ABDULLAH: THE BOISTEROUS STATEMENTS OF BHUTTO, AND(HIS) THREATENING OF THE BALUCH PEOPLE WITH BOMBARDMENT AND MASS ANNIHILATION RESEMBLES ADVENTURISM. MAYBE ITS OTHER OBJECTIVE IS DIVERSION OF PAKISTANI PUBLIC OPINION FROM INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THE ALLEGATION OF CONCENTRATION OF FORCES ATTRIBUTED TO US ALSO SERVES THIS PURPOSE. BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW LONG HE CAN OCCUPY THAT PUBLIC OPINION IN PAKISTAN, WITH THE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING INCREASING DIFFICULTIES.

SIMONS: PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES NOTE THAT THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS THAT PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF CAMPS IN AFGHANISTAN THAT TRAIN GUERILLAS FOR DSTRUCTIVE ACTION IN PAKISTAN.

ABDULLAH: THIS IS NO MORE THAN STORIES. AND IF SUCH THINGS EXIST WE ARE READY TO SEE THESE DOCUMENTS. BHUTTO HAS A SPECIAL LOVE
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FOR SUCH KINDS OF STORY TELLING. AS RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN I SAY UNAMBIGUOUSLY THAT SUCH CENTRES NEVER EXISTED IN OUR COUNTRY, AND DO NOT EXIST, AND (I) REFUTE THE ALLEGATION IN IS TOTALITY.

SIMONS: THANK YOU FOR THE INTERVIEW. END QUOTE.
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